Bringing back of Kohinoor and Peacock Throne

4573. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 766 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2001 and state;

(a) whether Kohinoor Diamond and the Peacock Throne are still held by the Britishers;

(b) if so, whether the matter was raised during the recent visit of the British Prime Minister; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to bring them back at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the whereabouts of the Kohinoor Diamond and Peacock Throne. Government is in touch with the concerned authorities in the British Government through our High Commission in London on this matter. Government will continue to explore ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution.

Visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

4574. DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Assistant Secretary of state visited India and has discussions with Indian officials on developments in the Indo-U.S, relations and situation in the sub-continent;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed;

(c) the officials and Ministers with whom she met and had discussions; and

(d) the outcome of her visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The U.S. Assistant

Secretary Of State for South Asia Ms. Christina Rocca visited New Delhi from 9—11 April 2002.

(b) and (c) She called on Minister of External Affairs and met the Special Envoy for Afghanistan and senior officials in the Ministry of External Affairs. The two sides undertook a review of the status of bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of counter-terrorism, security, defence, export controls, investment and trade, high technology commerce, energy and environment. The two sides also discussed regional developments, including the evolving political and security situation in Afghanistan.

(d) The discussions further strengthened India-U .S. engagement on a broad range of issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to establish a dialogue on political-military affairs as part of their growing cooperation in the areas of defence and security. They also agreed to continue their consultation and cooperation on Afghanistan.

Ignoring warnings on illegal flights

4575. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received various representations about illegaJ flights taking off from Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 23rd April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has ignored the action on various representations and warnings;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) whether the role of officials responsible for the act has been probed in this case and if so, with what results; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such illegal flights do not take off from Delhi?